



Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education President Position Profile

THE POSITION: PRESIDENT

SALARY: COMPETITIVE

THE COUNCIL

The Council on Postsecondary Education, a 16-member board appointed by the Governor, is the state coordinating board for postsecondary and adult education in Kentucky. The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, under the leadership of its president, collaborates with the university and college presidents, the body politic, the P-12 education system and public opinion leaders toward the realization of the clearly identified and legislated goals for higher education in Kentucky. The majority of the 16-member Council is appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate and House of Representatives; lay members serve six-year terms limited to one additional consecutive reappointment. There also are faculty and student representatives on the Council.

In 2007, the Commonwealth elected a new Governor. Currently the Senate has a Republican majority while the House has a Democratic majority.

The offices of the Council on Postsecondary Education are located in Frankfort, an historic city and capital of Kentucky, in the heart of the state's beautiful bluegrass horse farms.

The Council on Postsecondary Education coordinates change and improvement in Kentucky's postsecondary education system as directed by the Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997. It is charged with leading the reform efforts envisioned by state policy leaders. Among its many responsibilities to lead a well-coordinated and efficient postsecondary and adult education system are:

- Develop and implement a [strategic agenda](#) for the postsecondary and adult education system that includes [measures of educational attainment, effectiveness, and efficiency](#).
- Produce and submit a [biennial budget request](#) for public funding of postsecondary education.
- Monitor and approve [tuition rates](#) and set minimum [admission criteria](#) at public postsecondary institutions.
- Define and approve [academic programs](#) at public institutions; approve capital projects.

- Facilitate the [articulation and transfer](#) among all sectors of education.
- Ensure the optimal [utilization of technology](#) among public institutions.
- Collect and distribute [comprehensive data](#) about postsecondary education performance.
- Operate the [Kentucky Virtual Campus and Kentucky Virtual Library](#).
- Implementation of a statewide [adult education](#) system.

The 2000 Adult Education and Kentucky Innovation Acts focused attention on broad-based means to address the level of education of adults in the Commonwealth; adult education is under the purview of the CPE. The Kentucky Innovation Act envisions an entrepreneurial economy characterized by knowledge, innovation, and speed; the legislation empowers the Council to lead the economic transformation (see <http://www.cpe.ky.gov/planning/legislation>) by giving the Council a key role in stimulating business-related research and facilitating partnerships between and among postsecondary education institutions, existing businesses and industry, and prospective businesses.

POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION IN KENTUCKY

The Commonwealth of Kentucky is home to over four million residents. Policy leaders are convinced of the crucial relationship between higher attainment of education, quality of life, and economic development.

With over 240,000 students enrolled in eight public universities, 16 community and technical colleges, and 20 independent four-year colleges and universities, as well as 17,000 students and 8,000 educators served by the Kentucky Virtual Campus and 117,000 Kentucky Adult Education students, Kentucky reaches out broadly to educate its citizens.

Each university has its own board of trustees or regents, the majority of whom are appointed by the Governor. Community and technical colleges are led by the KCTCS board of regents. (See <http://cpe.ky.gov/institutions/>)

State postsecondary education institutions operate with a \$4.2 billion overall annual budget, including \$1.1 billion in state funds. The state approved \$480 million for campuses in its most recent capital budget.

With the passage of the Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act (House Bill 1), and following in 2000 with the Adult Education Act and the Kentucky Innovation Act, key goals were established for the Kentucky postsecondary education system:

- Provide a seamless, integrated, strategically planned, and adequately funded system of postsecondary education to enhance economic development and quality of life.

- Make the University of Kentucky a top 20 nationally ranked research institution and the University of Louisville a nationally recognized metropolitan research university.
- Develop at least one nationally recognized program of distinction or one nationally applied research program at each regional institution: Eastern Kentucky University, Kentucky State University, Morehead State University, Murray State University, Northern Kentucky University, and Western Kentucky University.
- Design a Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) that provides access to two-year general studies programs for transfer to a baccalaureate program, technical skills programs designed to help Kentucky workers find better jobs and that attracts employers to the Commonwealth, and remedial and continuing education to improve the employability of students.
- Promote cooperation among the regional universities and other postsecondary institutions to give all Kentuckians access to high quality bachelor's and master's degree programs across the state.
- Develop an efficient, coordinated, and responsive system that delivers services to adult learners of a quality and a quantity that is comparable to the national average.

(See <http://www.cpe.ky.gov/planning/legislation>.)

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Kentucky's ambitious agenda makes it one of postsecondary education's most exciting policy leadership venues. It is a place where the body politic has clearly stated its expectations of postsecondary education and put them into law in a way that is equal in scope to the state's challenges. Importantly, this legislation is based on a long-term view of what the state needs of its colleges and universities.

Throughout the ranks of political, educational, and private sector leadership, there is deep commitment and support to improving the number of educated Kentuckians to achieve a competitive future for the Commonwealth. Under the leadership of a highly capable cadre of university and college presidents, there is measurable progress in Kentucky's college-going rate that now exceeds the national average.

More than 18,000 bachelor's degrees were awarded at Kentucky's public and independent universities in 2006-07 representing a 25 percent increase in degree production since 2000-01. Research activity has increased notably in the universities. KCTCS is reaching out to nontraditional students in innovative and productive ways. Efforts of the Kentucky Virtual Campus and Kentucky Adult Education continue to make inroads in reaching greater numbers of Kentuckians wherever they may live. Kentucky's independent universities contribute to the needs of the state through their vigorous outreach to students.

The CPE, the universities, and the state's elected leaders have led efforts to implement House Bill 1, conducted an affordability study as well as a statewide facilities condition assessment study, initiated a statewide diversity study, and implemented the first statewide regional stewardship program in the nation. The partnerships with the Kentucky Department of Education yielded the first joint budget request between the postsecondary education community and the P-12 community, supporting the goal of a seamless P-16 model of education, including plans for a high-speed P-20 network and data warehouse.

Current priority initiatives include:

- designing strategies and models for securing adequate resources for postsecondary education;
- stimulating research which may be translated into economic development including the nationally recognized Endowment Match program (Bucks for Brains);
- developing a program to Double the Number of college graduates by 2020;
- improving quality and accountability;
- assuring affordability;
- promoting seamlessness in all levels of education;
- strengthening the roles and responsibilities of board members; and
- developing communication programs for state and federal legislators.

The Leadership Challenge

The postsecondary agenda in Kentucky is demanding and large, requiring exceptional strategic capabilities, outstanding communication skills, and political savvy on the part of the Council president along with commitment and good will from all those engaged. The primary challenge for the next Council president lies in the ability to lead the Council, the presidents, the body politic, the P-16 education system, and public opinion leaders toward the full realization of the legislated goals for postsecondary education in Kentucky.

Advocacy and Accountability

The Council on Postsecondary Education has coordinating authority and requires collaboration with a variety of stakeholders. It will be important for the new president to be a master of incentive-driven strategies that coalesce campuses around a common agenda.

Funding Mechanisms

With the passage of the reform act, the old formula for distribution of state funds to the institutions was set aside. The Commonwealth since has struggled to reach consensus on a funding approach that will meet everyone's expectations. Consequently, the

operating budget process has, in the past, advanced into the executive and legislative arenas with unpredictable outcomes. It is very important that the distribution mechanism for state funding recommended by the CPE be one that offers both fairness and stimulation of change in order to meet the Commonwealth's postsecondary education reform goals.

Unity of Purpose and Voice

Kentucky is a state defined by regions, and in postsecondary education this remains true as well. Each campus is a critical component of the regions it serves. Even as he or she understands this regional role of Kentucky's campuses, the president of the CPE is the leading voice for all the people of Kentucky insofar as their needs for postsecondary education are concerned. The president is the principal advocate for the public postsecondary education agenda and for the promise it holds for Kentucky's future.

Seamlessness

The long-term success of Kentucky's ambitious goals fundamentally rests in the ability of all its education systems to work together in highly synergistic ways. The performance of students in the K-12 system by strengthening teacher education programs, encouraging greater collegiate participation, easing transferability of credits from two-year to four-year campuses, improving the skills of adult learners, and reducing the need for remedial education are all ongoing issues both for the CPE and for all of education. Political leaders expect expeditious progress in these important areas.

For the higher education policy leader committed to positive change, there is no more interesting place today than the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

LEADERSHIP CHARACTERISTICS

The president of the Council on Postsecondary Education leads an experienced and highly qualified staff of 107 and has an annual operating budget of \$87 million, including strategic trust fund initiatives ultimately intended for the postsecondary education institutions, adult education, and the new economy. The position reports to the Governor's office.

The Council on Postsecondary Education seeks a president with the following characteristics:

- A leader with an excellent academic and administrative background and with an established reputation as a professional in postsecondary education.
- An advocate who understands the differences in cultures within postsecondary education but who does not express institutional or regional bias.
- A visionary, open-minded leader who can work effectively with the Council, elected leadership of the Commonwealth, and the postsecondary community to achieve educational reform.

- A clear, convincing, politically astute communicator who can listen as well as advocate and persuade.
- A consensus builder capable of marshaling support from individuals and groups with divergent viewpoints and needs, including campus, community and business leaders, and elected leadership, both legislative and executive.
- A transformational leader whose understanding of change strategies and incentives will help achieve Kentucky's educational and economic goals.
- An experienced professional whose understanding of large, complex budgeting systems can help formulate a funding model that uses appropriate and accountable strategies to reach the state's goals.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Greenwood/Asher & Associates, Inc. is assisting the Council in the search. Applications will be accepted and reviewed until the position is filled. For best consideration, applications and nominations should be provided by September 12. Interested individuals should submit applications and nominations electronically, preferably in a Word document. An application should include a letter describing relevant experiences and interest in the position, a resume, and names, titles, addresses, business and home telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses of five references. All names of candidates will remain confidential except those who become finalists. Applications and nominations should be submitted to:

Jan Greenwood or Betty Turner Asher
 Greenwood/Asher & Associates, Inc.
 42 Business Center Drive, Suite 206
 Miramar Beach, Florida 32550
 Phone: 850 650-2277 / Fax: 850 650-2272
 Email: jangreenwood@greenwoodsearch.com
 Email: bettyasher@greenwoodsearch.com

Greenwood/Asher & Associates, Inc.

Prospective candidates are invited to visit the website of the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education at <http://www.cpe.ky.gov>.



The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education is an equal opportunity employer.

